

REMARKS

Entry of the present amendment after final rejection is respectfully requested to remove all non-allowed claims and place all other claims in condition for allowance.

Upon entry of the present amendment the Claims under consideration are 1-15 and 25. Claims 17-24, drawn to a non-elected embodiment of the invention, and Claim 26, previously under consideration, are canceled, without prejudice to Applicants' future rights therein, in order to facilitate the prosecution of the present application. Claim 2 is amended hereby. Claim 16 is cancelled hereby. Claim 2 has been amended in its preamble to substitute the preamble of cancelled Claim 16, which stands objected to as being a duplicate of Claim 2, as further discussed below. Claims 1-15 and 25 are indicated as allowable. All amendments herein are believed to be formal in nature and do not represent new matter. The Detailed Action will now be addressed with reference to the headings and any paragraph numbers therein.

Claim Objections

Per paragraph 3 of the Detailed Action, Claim 16 stands objected to as a duplicate or substantial duplicate of Claim 2 under 37 CFR § 1.75 (citing MPEP §706.03(k)). Applicants have therefore canceled Claim 16 and amended Claim 2 to contain the preamble language of the substantial duplicative Claim 16.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

Per paragraph 5 of the Detailed Action, Claim 26 stands as anticipated by WO 00/37723 (Clark *et al.*). Applicants have hereby canceled Claim 26 thus obviating the present rejection.

For all the foregoing reasons, all Claims under consideration are believed to be placed in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's undersigned attorney should the Examiner feel that any issues remain after entry of the present amendment.

Favorable consideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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